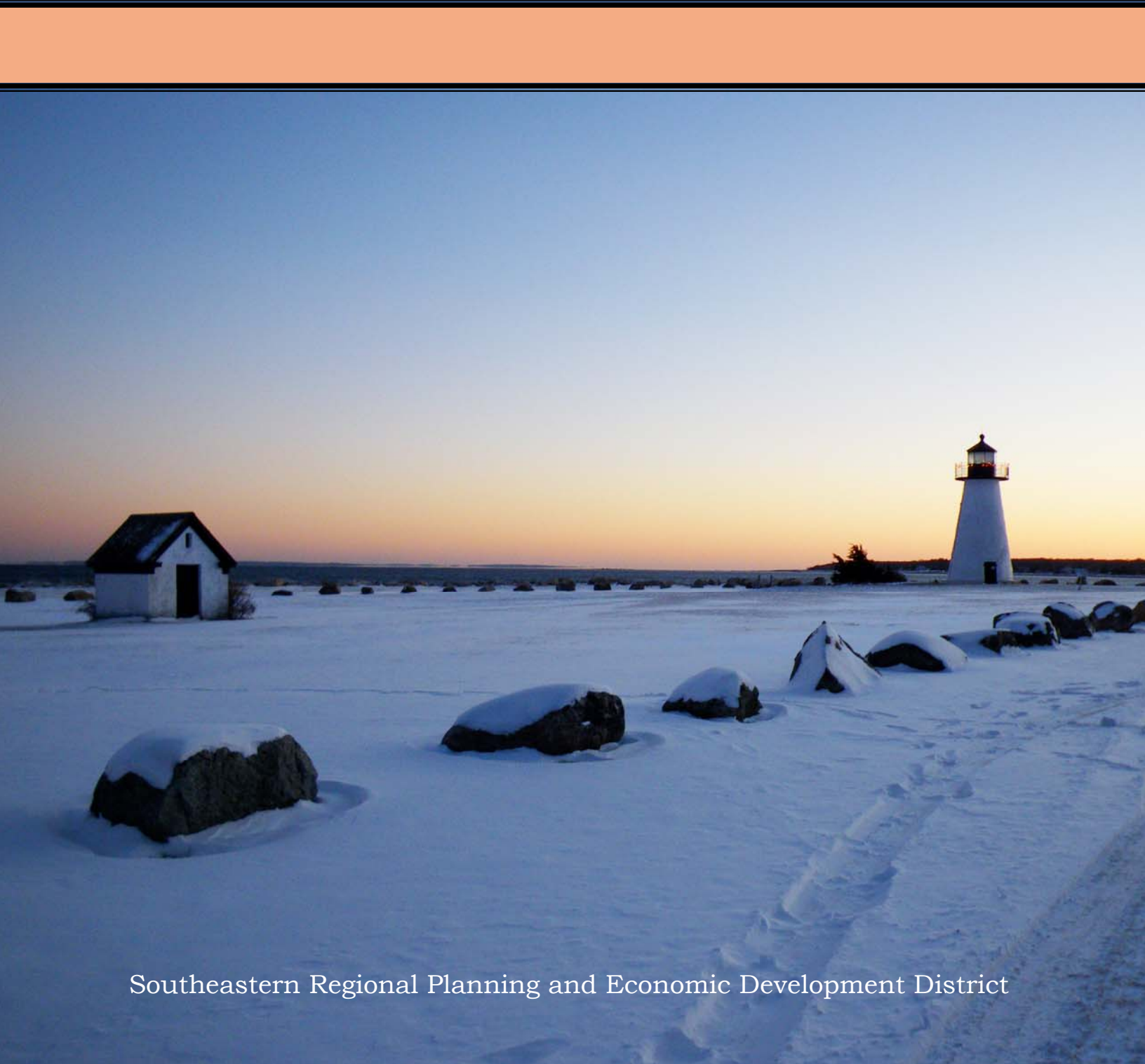


SRPEDD
ANNUAL REPORT
2009



Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District

Letter to the Region

Every letter in the SRPEDD acronym comes with its own responsibilities.

The “S” for Southeastern empowers us to advocate for our part of the state. The “R” for Regional reminds us that our perspective is broader than individual cities and towns. The “P” for Planning tells us to prepare for the future. The “ED” for Economic Development makes jobs and economic prosperity part of our charge. And the “D” for District signifies that we are a governmental entity serving the area’s citizens.

Every one of these roles and responsibilities is important, but in 2009, it is the “R” word that has acquired heightened importance. As our Commonwealth and its municipalities struggle with enormous financial hurdles, regionalism is emerging as a solution to many problems. SRPEDD has risen to the challenge.

There are 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts functioning not much differently than they have for the past 300 years. Each has its own police department, school department, building inspector, sealer of weights and measures and on and on. This may be very quaint and cozy, but it is also expensive and often very inefficient. Our current fiscal crisis is exposing many local governmental functions as antiquated luxuries.

Here is where SRPEDD has begun to make a difference. 2009 saw the launch of a regional cooperative purchasing program that will save thousands of dollars and countless hours of paperwork for the towns that choose to participate. We have also begun conversations with communities about a process where SRPEDD would facilitate sharing services as well. We are finding regional solutions to local problems. We believe that SRPEDD is up to the challenge that awaits us.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Peterson
Chair

Stephen C. Smith
Executive Director



SRPEDD Staff

Treasurer's Report

SRPEDD's budget for Fiscal Year 2009 was \$2,069,906. We had 21 separate federal, state, regional, local, foundation and private funding sources. Transportation planning accounted for 63% of our budget. The assessment on cities and towns remained unchanged for the eighth year in a row. This year SRPEDD enrolled in the state Group Insurance Commission program for fringe benefits. We have been able to pay down our mortgage at an accelerated rate. The annual independent audit, prepared by Benoit & McArdle, PC, confirms that our financial position situation remains healthy.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Newfield, Treasurer

Joan Marchitto, Assistant Treasurer

George Hovorka

Randall Kunz

Bob Rogers

Susan Peterson, Ex-Officio



SRPEDD Finance Committee

SRPEDD Staff

Nancy J. Bumbaugh, Office Manager
Lilia Cabral, Senior Transportation Planner
Christopher Cardaci, Transportation Planning Technician
Ling Ling Chang, Business Manager
Jennifer Chaves, Transportation Planner
Sandy Conaty, Principal Comprehensive Planner
Elaine F. Cristoferi, Homeland Security Grant Mgr.
Suzanne Dagesse, Homeland Security Sr. Grant Mgr.
Nancy Durfee, Comprehensive Planner
Lisa M. Estrela-Pedro, Principal Trans. Planner
Gregory J. Guimond, Comp. Planning Program Mgr.
James C. Hadfield, Director of Highway Planning
Louise A. Hardiman, Principal Transportation Planner
Roland J. Hebert, Trans. Planning Mgr. & Deputy Dir.
Linda Lally, Director of Transit Planning
Paul L. Mission, Transportation GIS Specialist
William S. Napolitano, Environmental Program Dir.
Karen M. Porter, GIS Specialist/IT Manager
Adam Recchia, Senior Transportation Planner
Josefina F. Reynes, PhD. Data Center Specialist
Jacqueline Schmidt, Transportation Planner
Stephen C. Smith, Executive Director
Stacy Sousa, Trans. Planning Tech.
Theresa M. Sprague, Comprehensive Planner
Donald Sullivan, Economic/Community Development Dir.

Transportation

Road Safety Audits

Lane departure crashes with high injury rates are a safety issue in the state and SRPEDD continues its efforts as the leading RPA in taking preventive action. Eleven roads in six communities were identified as problems. Working with the Commonwealth's Strategic Highway Safety Plan along with MassHighway, Federal Highway and UMass, road safety audits were conducted for Tucker Rd, Reed Rd and Hixville Rd in Dartmouth. Upcoming safety audits are scheduled for Sconticut Neck Rd and New Boston Rd in Fairhaven; High St in Carver; Wareham St, Marion Rd and Spruce St in Middleborough; Braley Hill Rd in Rochester; and Hortonville Rd in Swansea.

Traffic Count Program

SRPEDD collected volume, speed and classification data at over 90 locations during 2008-09. This data shows the average number of vehicles per day, the average speed of vehicles and the different types of vehicles. This effort, funded by MassHighway, helps determine traffic patterns and growth rates, assists in safety and congestion studies and provides police with information to address speed and safety problems.

TRAFFIC STUDIES

I-495 Congestion Study - Safety and congestion issues were studied for 15 miles between Route 24 in Raynham to I-195 in Wareham. Recommendations include the addition of travel lanes, the removal of the Middleborough rotary and several safety improvements, including additional guard rails and center median cable restraint barriers to help reduce the number and severity of crashes.

Regional Truck Route Study - This study identified and evaluated conditions on the region's major trucking corridors and at the region's multiple rest areas. Issues of congestion, pavement conditions, bridge restrictions and safety concerns were documented and will be included in evaluation criteria for upcoming TIP projects.

TIP Projects

Over \$58 million in highway improvements were included in SRPEDD's Transportation Improvement Program and advertised by MassHighway during 2008. The most notable projects were the rehabilitation of the Mansfield Route 106 underpass, safety improvements in Middleborough at the Route 44 intersections, new signals at the Route 138 at I-495 intersections in Raynham, replacement of the Route 114A Bridge over I-195 in Seekonk and construction of the temporary Berkley-Dighton Bridge.

Curb Cut By-law

SRPEDD updated its Model Curb Cut By-law with updated guidelines from the Transportation Research Board's *Access Management Manual* and MassHighway's *2006 Project Development and Design Guide*. The updated version features revised recommendations for curb cut and intersection spacing based on recent studies.

PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSISTANCE

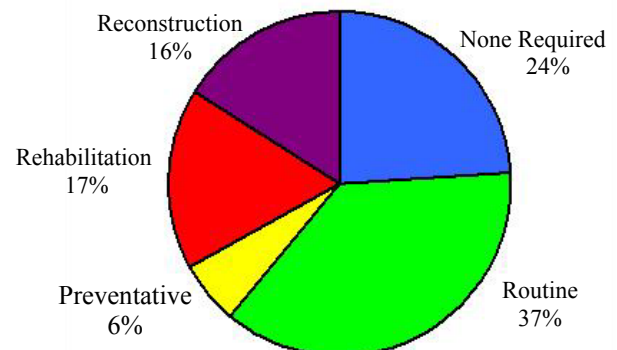
SRPEDD completed the following transit planning activities during the year:

- Updated the SRTA website to include bus route schedules and route maps.
- Located every bus route stop sign in the SRTA system to prepare for future trip planning using Google Transit.
- Assisted GATRA and SRTA in preparing for their federal review by providing ridership audits, written reports and procedures for the FTA Auditors.
- Prepared GATRA's Title VI Program Update.
- Conducted passenger sampling on SRTA and GATRA fixed route buses to assist in route planning and federal ridership reporting.
- Assisted SRTA and GATRA in developing service enhancements under the Job Access/Reverse Commute and New Freedoms federal funding programs.
- Conducted a ridership survey of the commuter train passengers to Boston from the Lakeville Station.
- Evaluated the service impacts to the SRTA system from the planned Payne's Crossing development in Freetown.
- Helped GATRA and SRTA purchase four new hybrid buses using highway funds reserved for projects that improve air quality.



Pavement Management

Roadway pavement conditions in the region have worsened over the last 5 years according to a new survey conducted by SRPEDD. Staff visually inspected over 1,000 miles of pavement during the summer of 2008. Roadways needing reconstruction increased from 7% to 16% and pavement needing rehabilitation increased from 10% to 17%.



2008 Pavement Survey Recommended Actions

Comprehensive Planning

South Coast Rail

Planning for commuter rail service between Fall River, New Bedford and Boston proceeded on a fast and furious pace throughout the year. A final route is scheduled to be selected in 2009, a financing plan in early 2010 and service is slated to begin in 2016. Among SRPEDD's roles this year were:

- Following an extensive local consultation process, SRPEDD facilitated the local designation of dozens of Priority Development Areas (PDAs) and Priority Protection Areas (PPAs) in all 27 communities.
- A Regional Priority Development/Protection map was developed as part of the planning process.
- The Southeastern Massachusetts Commuter Rail Task Force, the primary vehicle for regional input into the planning process, continued its work through the year.
- Staff analysis of 85 potential station sites along alternative lines was undertaken before final sites were selected.



Westport PDA/PPA Meeting

District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA)

SRPEDD participated in this state program to assist cities and towns on specific planning projects. Following a competitive application process, work undertaken includes:

- Master Plan Completion and Implementation in Carver, North Attleborough and Plainville.
- Zoning bylaw development in Dighton and Seekonk.
- Housing Assistance in Berkley and Rochester.

Sustainability for the Future

Following the work of the Futures Task Force, the year saw an expanded effort to promote a sustainable future. SRPEDD co-sponsored five "regional exchanges" with UMass Dartmouth on topics such as energy, food and transportation. SRPEDD's sustainability initiative was generously supported by the Island Foundation. Work continues in 2009 on the establishment of a Regional Sustainability Council.

Economic Development

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) was updated for 2009. The CEDS, which maintains the region's eligibility to receive federal EDA funds for planning and project development, identifies nine significant regional planning and infrastructure projects. Active projects include:

- Attleboro - Industrial/Business Park infrastructure;
- New Bedford - Business Park infrastructure;
- New Bedford - Quest Center neighborhood planning;
- Taunton - Myles Standish Industrial Park expansion
- Taunton - Dever School redevelopment planning;
- Regional - Industrial site assessment and mapping project.

ENVIRONMENT

Taunton River Wild & Scenic Designation

On March 30, 2009, President Obama signed the Omnibus Public Lands Act into law, adding the Taunton River to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

This designation was the culmination of a ten year SRPEDD-led regional effort. Through its designation under the Federal Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, the Taunton will become part of over 11,000 river miles in the United States whose outstanding resource values, free-flowing character, and local commitment to stewardship have been recognized by Congress.



The Oxbow - Taunton River

Plymouth-Carver Aquifer Advisory Committee

In conjunction with partners at The Nature Conservancy, SRPEDD continued to provide technical assistance to the seven town Plymouth-Carver Aquifer Advisory Committee. This aquifer is the second largest in the state.

ROSA - The Regional Open Space Alliance

The communities of Berkley, Fall River, Freetown and Lakeville worked together on a plan to protect and preserve commonly shared land and resources in the Lower Taunton River Watershed. This effort was an element of the Taunton River Campaign funded by the Sheehan Family Foundation.

Mattapoisett Bike Path

With SRPEDD's support over a ten year period, the first phase of the Mattapoisett bike path, from Fairhaven to Mattapoisett Neck Road, was opened in 2009.

Expedited Permitting

Following up on the launch of the expedited permitting program in 2008, SRPEDD worked with Carver, Freetown and Taunton to get specific sites designated under the state's Chapter 43D program. We also helped kickoff the designation process in Dartmouth and Raynham. Under Chapter 43D, the community agrees to amend bylaws and procedures to insure action on a permit application within a 180 day time period on the designated site.

Municipal Services (DLTA)

SRPEDD ventured into two new areas this year with the financial assistance from the state DLTA grant. A Regional Cooperative Purchasing Program was launched with over half of the SRPEDD communities participating. Bids were initially solicited for goods and services for public works departments and expanded to other items.

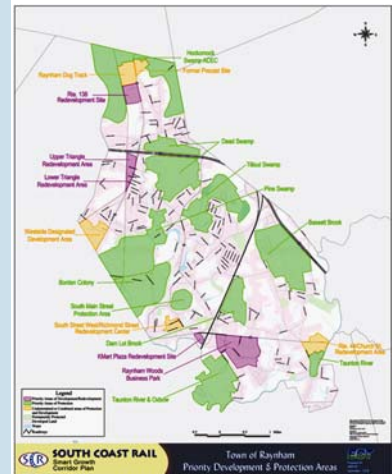
A survey of each city and town was undertaken to determine the potential for regionalizing various municipal services and personnel. The survey identified promising areas for future collaborative efforts.

Municipal Assistance

Acushnet	Future Land Use Map * Draft Revised Zoning Map
Attleboro	Wetland Public Hearing Assistance * Open Space Plan Maps * Data Information for CD Plan * 40R District By-law Assistance
Berkley	Aquifer Zoning Map * Housing Needs Assessment * Open Space Plan
Carver	Master Plan Assistance * Road Safety Audit * <i>Streamlined Permitting Implementation/Econ. Development Strategies</i>
Dartmouth	<i>Streamlined Permitting Application Assistance</i> * Road Safety Audits * River Clean Up Program
Dighton	Village District By-law
Fairhaven	Open Space Plan * Road Safety Audits * LID By-law
Freetown	Intersection Safety Improvements * Survey Tabulation * Open Space Plan * <i>Streamlined Permitting Process Implementation</i> * Zoning By-law Completion
Lakeville	Regional Casino Impacts map
Mansfield	Open Space Plan Review
Marion	Bike Path Assistance * Intersection Safety Study
Mattapoisett	Master Plan Assistance Meeting
Middleborough	Road Safety Audits * Expert Court testimony
New Bedford	Parking Requirement Revisions * Business Park Development Project * Neighborhood Planning Proposal
N.Attleborough	Zoning Map Update * Town Owned Parcel Map * Rte. 1 Corridor Rezoning * Master Plan: Economic Development * Open Space Maps
Norton	Open Space Plan Maps * Wheaton Crosswalk Safety Study
Plainville	Cluster Development By-law Review * Estate Lot By-law * Master Plan Assistance * <i>Priority Protection Area/Priority Development Area</i>
Raynham	<i>Streamlined Permitting Application Assistance</i> * Sign By-law Information
Rehoboth	Signal Warrants Analysis * Agricultural Resources mapping (SARE grant)
Rochester	Corrections to Zoning Map * Housing Needs Assessment * Future Land Use Map * Road Safety Audit
Seekonk	Economic Development Strategies * Review Proposed Zoning By-laws * Fiscal Plan Visioning & Report * Village Center Development By-law
Somerset	<i>Mixed Use Overlay District By-law</i> * Mixed Use Dev. Special Permit Regulations * Rte. 6 Intersection Safety Update
Swansea	Intersection Safety Improvements * Road Safety Audit * Agricultural Commission Organization
Taunton	CPA Information Sessions * Weir Corp. Census Maps * Washington Street Corridor Study * GATRA Route Evaluation * MSIP Feasibility Study
Wareham	Zoning District Boundary Descriptions * Bike Path Assistance
Westport	Central Village - Enhancements Proposal * LID By-law
Region	Town Administrator Forums * Regional Cooperative Purchasing Program * Survey of Local Services * Plymouth/Carver Aquifer Advisory Committee * I-495 Corridor Study * PSAP Census * 3 Mile River ACEC Nomination and Stewardship Plan * CPA Tech. Assistance
	<i>Italics=43 D Expedited Permitting</i> * Bold=DLTA * All others Municipal Assistance or South Coast Rail



New Bedford Historic District



Raynham Priority Map



Marion Town House



Wheaton College, Norton

Southeast Regional Advisory Council for Homeland Security

Since 2004, the Southeast Homeland Security Council has approved and funded over \$18 million dollars to communities within their 96 cities and towns, with SRPEDD (fiduciary) managing the grant funds. Projects this year include:

- Mobile attack foam trailers for Bristol, Plymouth, Norfolk and Barnstable Counties.
- NIMS (National Incident Management Systems) training for all 96 communities.
- Several tabletop exercises conducted within Bristol and Norfolk counties with a concentration on specific real-life scenarios.
- Moveable roadside barriers for the Cape Cod bridges to divert traffic during natural and man-made incidents.
- Bristol County radio interoperability expansion for law enforcement.
- Pan-Flu preparedness supplies.

SRPEDD Commission

City/Town

Acushnet
Attleboro
Berkley
Carver
Dartmouth
Dighton
Fairhaven
Fall River
Freetown
Lakeville
Mansfield
Marion
Mattapoisett
Middleboro
New Bedford
N. Attleboro
Norton
Plainville
Raynham
Rehoboth
Rochester
Seekonk
Somerset
Swansea
Taunton
Wareham
Westport

Mayor/Selectman

Henry S. Young
Gary Ayrassian
Joseph Callahan
Jack Hunter
Robert Carney
Donna Kulpa
Albert Borges
James Hartnett
Winn Davis
Rita Garbitt
Christopher McGowan
Jonathan Henry
Robert J. Rogers
Steven P. Spataro
Ronald Labelle

Heather A. Graf

Martin Newfield
Peter Richmond
Susan Peterson, PhD
Carol Bragg
Joseph Quin

Kevin Shea
Bruce D. Sauvageau
Steven Ouellette

Planning Board

Henry S. Young
Jason Gittle
Steven Leary
Allan Kingsbury
Lorri-Ann Miller

Raymond Fleurent
James Hartnett
Laurie Carvalho
Walter E. Healey, Jr.
Leonard Flynn
Patricia McArdle
Mark D. Estes
Ruth Geoffroy
David A. Kennedy
Joan Marchitto
David Miller

John Canto
Robert Moitozo, PE
Randall Kunz
Phoebe Lee Dunn
John Toulan
Steven J. Antinelli
Mark Slusarz
George T. Barrett
James Whitin

At-Large Commission Members

Attleboro Brian M. Foss
Fall River **George Hovorka**
New Bedford Patrick Sullivan
Taunton Michael Ferreira
Bold = Executive Committee Member

Commission Officers

Chair: Susan Peterson, PhD., Rochester
Vice Chair: Robert J. Rogers, Mattapoisett
Secretary: George Hovorka, Fall River At-Large
Treasurer: Martin Newfield, Raynham
Asst. Treasurer: Joan Marchitto, No. Attleboro
Past Chair: Lorri-Ann Miller, Dartmouth



SRPEDD Commission, April 2009